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**Rep. Lori Berman Files Back-To-Work Legislation For Florida**

Representative Lori Berman filed HB 207 today, the “Floridians Back to Work Program.” The program will provide assistance to thousands of out-of-work Floridians and assist small businesses by offsetting the cost of hiring new workers and encouraging employers to create long-term, private-sector jobs.

The Floridians Back to Work Program will provide up to \$2,000 in wage subsidies to Florida employers that hire qualified individuals currently receiving or have received unemployment compensation benefits within the last year. Employees must work 30 hours per week and be employed for four months for employers to receive the wage subsidy, and the law also allows for partial subsidies in qualified situations.

“Florida’s current unemployment rate is still a stagnant 10.7 percent. As an elected official, I believe it is my obligation to take positive action for all Floridians, especially those hit the hardest. While I realize our economy is still facing hardships, our jobless rate remains higher than the national average. The Floridians Back to Work Program will help place employees in secure jobs while providing our small businesses the assistance to do so,” said Representative Berman. “House Bill 207 is common-sense legislation and should be a no-brainer given our state’s current economic climate.

“In light of President Obama’s speech a couple of weeks ago, I call upon my colleagues in the Legislature to help me create jobs for the unemployed and produce incentives for our businesses by passing this good bill,” added Representative Berman.

Senator Jeremy Ring will be sponsoring the companion in the Senate.

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